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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yoshiyuki NAGAI et al.

Application No.: 09/839,139

Filed: April 23, 2001

For: LASER OSCILLATION APPARATUS, EXPOSURE
APPARATUS, SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD, SEMICONDUCTOR
MANUFACTURING FACTORY, AND EXPOSURE
APPARATUS MAINTENANCE METHOD

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: Examiner: M. Landau
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: Group Art Unit: 2815
)
: Confirmation No.: 1616
)

) December 23, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Each of the cited documents was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement. Specifically, these documents were cited in a European Search Report dated October 28, 2003, which was forwarded in a Communication dated November 6, 2003 (copies enclosed) from the European Patent Office in a corresponding European patent application (EP 01 30 3730).

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The Examiner will note that U.S. Patent No. 5,373,515 is already of record in this application. Therefore, no additional copy is provided.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

No fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed to be due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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